

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAL-01 /123 W

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R 151611Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2412

USMISSION USUN

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 2678

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, TS

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S SPEECH OF APRIL 8 ON LAW OF THE SEA

REF: STATE 085109

1. CHARGE MET TODAY WITH TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY
DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS AHMED GHEZAL AND PROVIDED
HIM WITH FRENCH LANGUAGE TEXT OF SECRETARY'S SPEECH.
DURING MEETING POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL WERE MADE, WITH
PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON REMAINING ISSUES. GHEZAL DID NOT
COMMENT ON MARINE SCIENCE RESEARCH AND IN REGARD TO DEEP
SEABED REGIME MERELY NOTED TUNISIA'S DEEP INTEREST AS
DEVELOPING COUNTRY IN HOW RESOURCES ARE SHARED. HE
COMMENTED AT GREATER LENGTH ON DISPUTE SETTLEMENT MECHANISM.

2. GHEZAL SAID GOT STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT THERE MUST BE
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AN IMPARTIAL INTERNATIONAL ARBITER TO SETTLE LOS DISPUTES.

GOT TOOK LOS CONFERENCE EXTREMELY SERIOUSLY AS STATE WITH EXTRAORDINARILY LONG COAST LINE IN CONGESTED AREA OF MEDITERRANEAN WHICH FELT NEED FOR GREATER SECURITY, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF ITS "VOISINAGE" (APPARENT REFERENCE TO CURRENT DISPUTE WITH LIBYA OVER OFF-SHORE OIL).

3. GHEZAL SAID THAT GOT WOULD GIVE CAREFUL STUDY TO SECRETARY'S SPEECH. WHILE OUTCOME OF LOS CONFERENCE OF REAL IMPORTANCE TO TUNISIA AND ITS BASIC POSITION WOULD HAVE TO BE DETERMINED BY ITS OWN SELF-INTEREST, IT APPEARED FROM DESCRIPTION OF MAIN POINTS OF SECRETARY'S SPEECH THAT USG AND GOT DID NOT DIFFER ON ESSENTIALS. GHEZAL NOTED THAT GOT'S LEADING LOS EXPERT, AMBASSADOR KEDADI, WAS IN NEW YORK FOR LOS CONFERENCE. CHARGE SAID WE WERE AWARE OF THAT AND FELT SURE USUN IN TOUCH WITH KEDADI (TUNIS 1672). FINALLY, GHEZAL NOTED THAT GOT SHARED VIEW THAT IT EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON LOS TREATY BE CONCLUDED SWIFTLY.
KING

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